

er, tell my other readers, through your Lordship, that as there is no ambiguity in the wording of the Quebec Act, by which the Reserves were created—as none of the words or phrases have become obsolete by time—as the act has always been understood in its plain grammatical sense—as it has always been acted upon agreeably to that sense, so as to give the Church Clergy the reserves, to the exclusion of the clergy of the Kirk and of all others, no declaratory act is now necessary to explain its meaning or enforce its enactments. I cannot but admire the ingenuity, the candour, the reasonableness of the gentleman in requesting your Lordship to obtain an enactment by which part of the legal rights of the Church are to be taken away and given to the Kirk, and in pointing out a way in which this may be done under the semblance of law, although at the expence of the Quebec Act, common sense, and the vested rights of the Church. Perhaps your Lordship and the Parliament may deem such a request insulting to your understandings, and a libel upon your integrity; but here, my Lord, we are all quite in raptures with the idea: we think it is the best expedient that ever occurred to the mind of man, by which to obtain, according to law, the property of our neighbours to make it our own. And if it now succeeds, we can assure your Lordship that we are resolved to follow up the idea and to profit by it to the utmost: we therefore wait with great impatience to know the issue of the gentleman's application.

The people here may be willing enough, as most people are, to help themselves at their neighbour's expense—nevertheless when they have, as in this case, no reward or hope thereof in view, they are as impartial umpires as can be wished. Hence, if the question now at issue embraced in its provisions an equal distribution of the profits of the Clergy reserves among all the Ministers of religion, without distinction of sect, in Upper Canada, and among all Protestant Ministers in Lower Canada, (the Roman Catholics being already provided for in that Province) and were the opinions and wishes of the people consulted, an equal distribution would be most agreeable to their ideas of justice and neces-